(c) the action taken to form a coordinated plan in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh to combat the naxalite menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, the following funds have been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh:—

	(as on 21.2.2000) (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	709.560
1997-98	209.560
1998-99	709.560
1999-2000	104.780

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 30.46 crores has been reimbursed to the Government of Andhra Pradesh as 50% of the expenditure incurred by the State Government in combating the left wing extremist activities during the period 1.4.1996 to 31.3.2000, under the Scheme of Reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure incurred by the States affected by left wing extremism.

(c) The Central Government has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States seriously affected by left wing extremism, as its members, to review and coordinate the steps taken by these States to check extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem.

The Coordination Centre has been meeting periodically. Several important decisions such as providing financial support from the Centre for combating left wing extremist activities, construction/ improvement of identified critical roads, preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs on constant basis, providing help of Para Military Forces on need basis, etc., have also been taken and effectively followed-up.

Ban on lottery

2161. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any decision to ban lotteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will ban lotteries directly run by State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the State of Kerala opposed any such move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999, which seeks to prohibit the organization, conduct and promotion of lotteries falling under entry 40 of List I — Union List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Kerala and some other States have opposed the proposed ban on lotteries. The Central Government perceives lotteries as a social evil which needs to be eliminated.

Deterioration of law and order in North-East

2162. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the law and order situation in the North-Eastern region is deteriorating;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to control and improve the law and order situation in the NER;

(d) whether Government are aware of the present activities of ANVC and NSCN in the West Khasi Hills district and East Garo Hills district of Meghalaya; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take action immediately against anti-social elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.